



“A welcoming church sharing the love of Jesus to make Him known.”

Reports for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

22nd May 2022

PCC Lay Chair

Churchwardens

PCC Secretary

Treasurer

Safeguarding

Cub Scout Packs

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Sunday School

**Barrow Mission
Community**

Barrow Deanery Synod

PCC Lay Chair

Since our last APCM we still do not have a Vicar. We are extremely grateful to Father Jack for his continued support and guidance. As well as organising help from other Clergy, our thanks go to him, Clare and Martin Williams as well as other Clergy from within the Mission Community, Rev'd Clive Shaw who has travelled from Lancaster and Archdeacon Vernon Ross from Lindale to take services.

My sincere thanks go Roger for carrying out his duties diligently as PCC Secretary and overseeing the Buildings and Properties Sub-Committee with Arthur, Jonathan, David and Maureen. Also thank you to Maureen for supporting me as Lay Chair and organising weddings, baptisms and church enquiries. We also need to say a huge thank you to David for his **40 years** dedicated service to St. Mary's as PCC Treasurer

I must thank Jonathan as our Lay Reader, Marie for her Pastoral Ministry and Arthur for always being willing to take on low maintenance jobs around the Church and Centre. Thanks also go to Maureen for heading up the Worship Committee along with Mary, Denise, Jonathan, Brenda and Janet who plan all our Lay Led Services. We are grateful to Denise for organising reading rotas and hymns along with musical interludes and our PCC Baptism Committee of Maureen, Mary, Brenda and Janet who have been extremely busy over the past 12 months. We are also thankful for Mary and Steve who play a huge part organising all the Church printing and music for services, weddings and funerals.

We must acknowledge and thank the many people who work quietly behind the scenes to maintain and keep the Church lovely. Monica for her weekly cleaning and gardening, Brenda and David for cleaning our brasses, Sheila for her lovely floral arrangements and Keith, Marian, Monica and Ged for serving coffee after services. Thank you.

The leaders of our Uniformed organisations and groups deserve a special mention for the good work they do with the younger members of our community.

I would also like to mention and thank my family Dawn and Lee for their support taking on projects such as making notice boards, hedge cutting and painting.

Indeed thank you to each and every one for all you have done and continue to do within our Church Family.

As we enter a New Church Year, I pray that we can all work together in harmony as we have done in the past months and continue to grow our Church Community here on Walney and that a new priest will be called to lead us very soon.

Rhona Teale

Churchwardens

Maureen Dale and Rhona Teale were admitted as Churchwarden's to St Mary's by the Archdeacon at a Service in St. James Church on 15th July, 2021.

Since the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 9th May, 2021 Maureen and Rhona have together with the support of the PCC continued to meet the many challenges which have arisen throughout the past year. During the year 32 children were baptised, 5 weddings and 16 funerals were carried out. Several meetings have taken place with the Archdeacon, Vernon Ross, Fr. Jack Knill-Jones, Asst. Rural Dean and Revd. Robin Ham, Joint Mission Community Leader in an endeavour to help secure the appointment of a new Vicar for St. Mary's. It was agreed that early after Easter an advertisement would be prepared for the position of Priest in Charge for St. Mary's and St. John's Churches. The role in the first year will be for a 75% joint appointment for the two churches and 25% for across the Mission Community. A small group from within the PCC, Steve and Mary Bacon, Rhona Teale and Maureen Dale worked hard to put together a Parish Profile document for St. Mary's which is available for all to read.

On Christian Aid Sunday in May envelopes for donations were distributed to the congregation and the response was gratefully received. A Ploughman's Lunch is planned this coming Christian Aid Week.

In July as restrictions became more relaxed singing in the church services resumed to the delight of many. A request for help for a school in Mamelodi in South Africa which was really struggling to feed the children was responded to by the church family in sending monetary gifts to help relieve their situation. This money was gratefully received by the teachers.

Due to the pandemic lasting for so long the Churchyard had been neglected and on a sunny June Saturday a 'Clean up Day' by church and community members took place when in accordance with Churchyard Regulations many artificial flowers were removed, trees trimmed and hedges cut. Unfortunately some distress was felt by some people whose flowers were removed. It was explained that this action was taken because Churchyard Regulations were being broken and apologies were extended to those who had been upset. We have been amazed and overjoyed to receive continued help to keep the Churchyard tidy throughout the year and extend grateful thanks to all who serve to look after all that God has created.

In August we had our Quinquennial Inspection of the Church and many maintenance issues were raised and the Buildings and Property Committee have prioritised the most urgent issues which are currently being addressed.

Our annual Tunes and Spoons event took place in the Centre in September which was once again a huge success. Our thanks go especially to Steve Bacon for organising this. We look forward to introducing more fund raising events in the future. During September coffee in the Centre after Sunday morning worship was recommenced. Our thanks go to Marion and Keith Newby and Monica and Ged Pugh. Donations of non perishable foods were donated at our Harvest Festival Service in October which were then given to the Barrow Food Bank for distribution. We also shared in a Bring and Share Lunch after the Service.

The annual Remembrance Day Service in November was conducted by our Archdeacon, Vernon Ross. The run up to Christmas saw the return of school visits and Carol and Christingle Services were held.

Christmas Eve was shared with our brothers and sisters in Vickerstown Methodist Church and again on the 9th January we joined together for the Covenant Service led by Revd. Dr Helen Hooley in St. Mary's. Lent began on 2nd March with the Ash Wednesday Service in St. Mary's led by The Revd. Aimee Lynch.

We were recently informed by the Diocese that a Burial Grounds Mapping Project was to be carried out in all Churchyards in the Carlisle Diocese as part of a national programme at no cost to parishes. Parishes will have access through a web-based record system which will be a great asset to us here at St. Mary's as we have had and continue to have many requests for the interment of ashes. Watch out for a man with a digital camera in the churchyard within the next few weeks.

Our grateful thanks go to all the many people within the PCC, Church Family and Community who give of their skills and time to help us as Churchwarden's keep the Church running as efficiently as we can while awaiting the appointment of a new Vicar.

As we come to the end of a busy and challenging church year we give thanks to God for all that he has provided for us and pray that He will guide, equip and inspire each and everyone of us as we continue to serve him.

“For I know the plans I have for you” declares the LORD “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”

Jeremiah 29:11

Maureen Dale & Rhona Teale

PCC Secretary

In 2021 the PCC met six times at bi-monthly intervals. The first two meetings of the year were through Zoom and the following four were face-to-face in the Parish Centre as lockdown restrictions eased.

PCC had five active ex-officio members and five active serving members. There are two ex-officio roles not filled these being the Vicar and a third Deanery Synod representative. Brenda Hill took on the second of our Deanery Synod roles alongside Jonathan Elvy. There are four vacancies for serving members after Sylvia Brazier and Maria Waddington both stepped down in 2021. We welcomed Keith Newby to PCC after the last APCM and Janet Western who started a second term.

PCC meetings continue to follow a standard meeting agenda with expected outcomes set out. Each item owner pre-circulates their reports to facilitate more informed discussion with meaningful outputs. Standard agenda items include reports from the Chair, Treasurer, Churchwardens, Secretary, Safeguarding Officer, Mission Community and PCC Subcommittees. Our subcommittees cover Buildings & Property, Worship, Baptism, Pastoral and Communicate & Connect. The minutes of PCC meetings are published on the church website for viewing.

PCC continued to work very closely with the Diocese to secure a new incumbent. A new Parish Profile was finalised to proudly highlight our church and island for perspective candidates. Several meetings were held with Archdeacon Vernon, Father Jack and Barrow Mission Community to agree alignment

on the scope of the role and ensure clarity on the actions needed to secure a successful candidate in 2022. During this interregnum we were appreciative of the continued support of Father Jack Knill-Jones, other local clergy and our hardworking Worship committee to plan and lead our services.

2021 was another challenging year for church finances with the impact of Coronavirus still being felt. PCC monitored the changes in income and outgoings to ensure St Mary's were able to navigate the year and to have the financial foundations in place to build and grow as restrictions were gradually lifted. Various national grant schemes and online donation options were explored to help offset building and operational costs.

The Buildings and Property subcommittee met regularly via Zoom through the year. The Risk Register was extended to cover church, Quinquennial and Parish Centre risks and issues and their resolution. Work completed in 2021 included removal of diseased trees along the Promenade, securing of broken window covers on the East and West upper windows, completion of a church electrical survey and a number of church boiler, flooring, lighting and sound system repairs. We struggled throughout the year to find builders who would make repairs to the church roof (this finally addressed in Q1 2022). A Thrive Renewables grant was obtained to replace the ceiling lights in the Parish Centre. We are very thankful for those individuals who contributed to the costs of these works in 2021.

Looking ahead we are planning to meet Church of England "Net Zero by 2030" commitments, taking steps to secure more grant funding for repairs and fully implementing the recommendations of our recent church electrical survey.

Given the dangerous nature of some of the repair work PCC approved and published a new Health & Safety Policy to protect all users of the church. Actions were taken to ensure the Churchyard was well maintained and presented. Our Churchyard and Garden of Remembrance Policy was refreshed, published and implemented. Discussions with the Town Hall clarified the responsibilities of all parties looking after the Churchyard and its surrounds.

As Secretary I continued to process information and service requests from the Diocese, parishioners and other agencies, for example renewing our Covenant Partnership to maintain our alliance with Barrow Mission Community for another 5 years, monitoring planning permission requests for properties bordering the church land and organising meetings with church leaders.

In closing, it was a very busy but enjoyable year in ensuring St Mary's continues to function in a safe, secure and productive manner for all our parishioners, our community and our stakeholders.

Roger Burns

Treasurer

The Treasurer's report and accounts for 2021 are printed and distributed separately.

David Hollis

Safeguarding

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is Rhona Teale. Our parish supports all uniformed organisations and groups, works with children and young people. It works with all Adults which may be vulnerable.

The leaders and volunteers working within the Parish have been safely recruited in accordance with the Churches National Guidance and we are currently ensuring that they receive the level of training required by the Church.

This process will be completed once the PCC, Officers and Church Wardens have been duly elected. Prior to this we will ensure that members will not be working unsupervised or alone.

All Members have undertaken the Basic Awareness and Foundation and Church Wardens have or about to undertake the Leadership Safeguarding Course as well as holding a current DBS certificate.

Over the past 12 months. Covid Risk Assessments have been carried out every 4 months and updated as required. Covid scanning for test and trace were displayed in the Church Building and Parish Centre. Hand Sanitisers and face masks at entrances and exits and a one-way system was used at Entrances and exits.

Test and Trace sheets were used for anyone who attended any services or meetings and were safely destroyed after 3 weeks.

Cleaning and sanitising of the Church and Centre was done after every use.

We are required to formally adopt the House of Bishops Promoting a Safer Church, Safeguarding Policy Statement and Church of England Safeguarding Policy and Guidance which is renewed and re visited annually and Displayed on the Church Notice Boards.

Rhona Teale

Cub Scout Packs



Following last years Covid disruptions, we have returned to running face to face pack meetings, starting up again after Easter – our rebirth, with about 20 cubs across both cub packs. After emerging from running zoom meetings, we wanted to get back to regular pack meetings, supplemented with activity nights, to try to cover some of the outdoor and more adventurous activities.

With the aid of two scout volunteers with Archery permits we were able to give the cubs the opportunity to do an Archery session. We followed this up with a number of canoeing sessions delivered by Duddon Canoe Club.

We held a Beach BBQ, with activities, and presentation of awards / badges by our newly appointed District Commissioner (who stayed for the whole session and helped). We supported the district event of Jamboree on the Air, with 12 cub scouts taking part.

We had also planned a sleepover in Knox St. hall, but dropped the sleepover plan with rising Covid numbers, but still had 22 cubs take part in an extended pack night of crafts. In February, we had a parent taster session, #GoodForTwo, with games, craft activities, chocolate mug cakes, and armpit fudge. We hope this may lead to more adult volunteers.

During the last year the following cub badges have been awarded:

16 Membership awards.

Activity Badges – 19 Artist, 1 Book Reader, 17 Environmental Conservation, 23 Fire Safety, and 1 each of International, Local Knowledge, My Faith, Naturalist, Pioneer and Community Impact.

Staged Awards – 18 Nights Away, 19 Paddle Sports, 29 Time on the Water, and 36 Joining In Awards.

Challenge Awards – 14 Adventure, 3 Outdoors, 9 Personal, 4 Skills, 5 Team Leader, 5 Teamwork, and 13 World.

We awarded 22 Cumbria Awards, a special badge for Cumbria, encouraging the return to face to face scouting.

4 of our cubs still managed to complete their Chief Scouts Silver Awards (the top award for cub scouts), which have been presented.

A total of 263 badges.

The Cubs are led by Ged Pugh, greatly assisted by assistant cub leaders, Karen Edmondson, Julie Hester, Scott Hartley, our recent addition Louise Griffiths, and occasional help from Keith King (our Group President), and Brenda Hill.

We haven't had all our usual district events and no camping yet. But we have still achieved a lot. Our numbers have grown to 36 cub-scouts. We have had a very good residential experience at the Keppleway Centre, Broughton (18 attended), with financial support from their Inclusion Fund, and a grant from the Sir John Fisher Foundation. The cubs took part in canoeing, archery and crate stacking, provided by the skills instructors at Keppleway.

We look forward to a District Cub Camp at Great Tower in July, a district walk, and re-establishment of the cub swimming nights.

Ged Pugh

Beaver Scouts



After a prolonged time of Scouting at home, during the lockdowns the Beavers started to meet again in person in April. We generally met down Vickerstown park, playing games on the grass, following trails, looking for wildlife, putting up tents, making dens, badgework, bbqing etc All the sort of things little boys like to do!

The Beavers did a sponsored walk splitting the money between the Wateraid charity and our Scout group. The Beavers decided themselves that they wanted to help children have clean water. We looked at the problems that affect other children's lives when they do not have fresh water coming out of a tap. The health and educational implications.

The Beavers particularly enjoyed trying to filter muddy water to remove the particulate matter, or should I say they initially enjoyed muddying the water.....

Beaver numbers did drop near the end of 2021. The boys have found the upheaval of the lockdowns particularly hard especially home schooling and not having their usual social contact. Whilst returning to inside meetings some found it hard to socialise, listen or interact nicely with each other, and it led to some stressful evenings. Thankfully, things are settling back down to normal, numbers are increasing, things are calmer (or as calm as they can be with 6 to 8 year energetic boys) and Scouting has resumed properly.

The Beavers have recently earned their space badge and are working towards their challenge badges.

Please may I take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all the leaders who support me with the youth groups, as it has been a challenging couple of years and we could not have carried it on without you all, the leaders, the young leaders, the Rangers, the parent helpers and the church members who quietly keep me on the straight and narrow. Thank you.

Monica Pugh

Guides



Guiding at St. Mary's is still ever present, with groups starting back in April 2021, with girls meeting on a rota to limit numbers to 15, outside in the car park, in Vickerstown park or down the beach, following all the correct restrictions at the time. It was a challenge, but we continued to deliver a full and varied programme. The girls looked for bugs, built dens, explored the surrounding neighbourhood, put up tents, made bird feeders, bbq'd, Rangers lit fires and cooked meals down the beach, held sports events, problem solved etc It was really good having to adapt to being outside.

Thankfully when we returned to Guiding after the summer break, the restrictions lifted, and we could meet back indoors, weekly with full numbers. This was lucky, as it started to get dark early! The groups now enjoyed being warm and dry. They could do crafts and badgework easier. The Rainbows and Guides benefitted from several visits from Guiding instructors who taught them first aid and what to do in an emergency.

The Guides hosted a coffee morning in December, instead of their usual Christmas market. Unfortunately, I caught covid again and could not attend. Thankyou so much to everyone from church who stepped in to make this an enjoyable fundraising event.

We have just hosted our second 'Coffee and Chat' community coffee morning raising money for the sections and church. Thank you for your support, it was a lovely friendly event. The Guides once again donated and made up the daffodil bunches for the Mothering Sunday service, it was sad that we were in lockdown last year and could not show our appreciation to you all.

The Guiding sections were extremely lucky to receive a Rotary grant of £1500 to purchase equipment to help us continue to grow the movement. We purchased £900 of Guiding resources eg badge books, badges, programme ideas and uniforms. The remainder was spent on foldable Bbqs and sports equipment ready for the summer. We spent a lovely evening with the representatives from the Rotary clubs. They presented each Rainbow, Brownie and Guide with a badge book, as the girls work independently on their interest badges. We are very grateful for their support, as like every part of society there has been an economic cost due to the lockdowns etc.

We look forward to a more normal year, and after the Easter break we will be progressing so many children through the sections, as at last we play catch up after all the restrictions, it is going to be busy but hopefully amazing too.

Monica Pugh

Toddler Praise

Our Toddler Group restarted in September 2021, after an extended break due to the corona virus outbreak. We have now moved to a new meeting day and time, which is a Wednesday morning between 9.45am and 11.30am during school terms. We now follow a more traditional 'parent and toddler group' set up, but do still mark Christmas, Mothering Sunday, Easter and the summer holidays, presenting the children with a topical little gift.

Monica and Pat run the group, with Laura in the side lines for now. We currently have 11 families who regular attend the group, enjoying social and play times together.

Monica Pugh

Sunday School

Sadly, the Sunday school is now in abeyance for the time being.

Monica Pugh

Barrow Mission Community

Barrow Mission Community is made-up of all the Anglican, Methodist, URC churches in Barrow, as well as Barrow Salvation Army.

Across our churches there was significant movement in personnel this year. As well as Carl Harding's retirement (mentioned above) there were the following changes:

- Rev Jennet McLeod retired in June after serving the South-West United Area as Superintendent & Lead Minister.
- Mrs Sophie Carnaby finished her role as Community & Families Worker and moved away.
- Rev Dr Sarah Richardson was ordained and licensed as Barrow Mission Community Curate in June, which she undertakes whilst also serving as a local GP.
- Rev Aimee Lynch began in July as Interim Team Vicar in the South Barrow Team, & Associate Priest in the North Barrow Team Ministry.
- Rev Dr Helen Hooley was welcomed in August to serve the URC & Methodist churches in the South-West United Area.
- Mr Opa Geibel began as Barrow Pioneer Enabler in September with a brief to engage with young adults & young families across the town, but particularly Newbarns & Barrow Island.

In May, the Diocese encouraged the Anglican churches in the Mission Community to have a coordinated approach to Parish Offer. We were told that across Cumbria increasingly the allocation of stipendiary clergy and other employed staff would be related to Parish Offer, although certain areas would receive additional endowment due to population size and economic factors. The Barrow Anglican parishes generously raised their offer with the intention this would cover a fifth stipend.

Some particular notable moments & highlights:

- For the first half of 2021, the 'Faith in Furness' radio show continued on Cando FM, broadcasting each Sunday morning with Christian music and a Thought for the Day.
- During Lent we gathered on Zoom for a series of Lent Gatherings looking at the God for All Vision Refresh themes: Follow Daily, Care Deeply, Speak Boldly, and Tread Gently.
- Throughout 2021, Night Prayer on Zoom on Thursday evenings was a much valued space for many. We're grateful to Hannah Wallace & team for pioneering this.
- During the town centre's Soapbox Car Challenge in August, we launched a 'Try Praying' racing car (constructed by Andy Ward & Network Youth Church team) as part of a stall encouraging questions & interest in faith & prayer.
- The Salvation Army continue to be at the heart of the town's Christmas Present Appeal, run as part of Barrow Borough Council's 'Giving to Communities at Christmas' scheme.
- During the COP-26 Climate Change Summit in November, we invited people to gather together for a BMC 'watch-party' of Tearfund's COP-26 Service.
- In November, Babs Lowes was licensed as Anna Chaplain, alongside seven Anna Friends, to serve those in later life throughout our town.
- In December we saw our first town-wide carol service at Barrow Raiders, 'Carols at the Raiders', thanks to the coordination of Rev Tony Ford, Chaplain at Barrow Raiders.

As we look to 2022, we'll increasingly need to be creative and courageous in seeking to grow mission & ministry across our town. And yet we trust that, though it may look different to how it did fifty or twenty or even ten years ago, the Lord will build his church.

Revs Robin Ham & Martin Cooper, BMC Co-leaders

Barrow Deanery Synod Report

The Barrow Deanery deals with issues concerning the Anglican (Church of England) churches in Barrow, including Barrow Island and Walney Island. It seeks to further God's kingdom in Barrow by bringing together all the parishes across the town, and increasingly with the Furness Deanery. Given clergy numbers, it has become normal practice for Barrow & Furness Deanery Synods to meet together (whilst often splitting off for parts of the meeting) and for Barrow & Furness Clergy Chapter to also meet together.

We are grateful to St Mary's for hosting our Deanery Ascension Day service in May, and to St James' for hosting our annual Deanery admission of churchwardens service in July.

The year has sadly seen Rev. Carl Harding have to retire through ill health. Personally I enjoyed the time we worked together exploring a hoped for return to work and I know that his ministry across the town was appreciated by many. Hopefully as he recovers he will once again play a part in the ongoing ministry across the town. Thanks to Carl and to Maggie for all they were able to give during their time in South Barrow. Do continue to pray for them as they look to a new chapter in their life and ministry.

The Islands parishes remain in interregnum, but hopefully there will be soon some progress to report as we grapple with the challenges that COVID has brought and address the patterns of ministry that are sustainable across the deanery.

Thanks to Malcolm Smith for overseeing the treasurers role and attempting to reset the accounts with new signatories, though this has proved frustratingly difficult. Malcolm has now stepped down so we need someone to take on the role of Deanery Treasurer.

To the meetings of Synod, of which there were three, two by Zoom.

April 2021 (by Zoom)

This was Barrow Synod only, as Furness were discussing the structure and formation of their Mission Community. Our meeting particularly discussed the vexed issue of bank account signatories. The Revd. Robin Ham updated us on the progress towards appointing a Pioneer Enabler.

June 2021 (by Zoom)

Last year I wrote that 'We are still to meet to re-elect representatives and roles for the new triennial'. The June meeting allowed us to fulfil our obligations and through the wonders of Zoom we were even able to meet as separate synods and as house of clergy and house of laity. There are still lay vacancies on the Archdeaconry Pastoral Committee and Diocesan Synod, though thanks are due to Jonathan Elvy for filling one of the vacancies.

There was a full discussion around how to ensure functional relationships between Mission Community and Deanery. At present MCs are an unelected body with no legal status. Rev Alan Bing invited discussion and proposed whether the traditional category of a 'Mission Committee' of Deanery Synod could be repurposed as a Mission Community Steering Group, to bring proper accountability, legality and engagement, enabling Deanery Synod to continue to discharge its statutory duties to promote 'the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'.

In other words, Anglican members of the MC Steering Group would effectively become the Mission Committee of the Deanery. The MC leaders could then refer any decisions through the Mission Committee so that they can properly be made or approved by Deanery Synod. This would help to

ensure both legality and engagement. It would give everyone the opportunity to be involved in the Mission Community through membership of Deanery Synod, but without duplicating or multiplying forums for governance. Synod agreed to accept the proposal. That said, the Barrow Mission Community Steering Group is currently under wider consideration as to the best way of operating.

October 2021

The October meeting was held at St. Mark, Barrow and the substantive item was an introduction to the programme of conversations envisaged as part of the 'Living in Love and Faith' project on human sexuality, commissioned by the House of Bishops. As I was recovering from an operation, my thanks go to all involved at that meeting.

Separately Barrow Synod received an update on Network Youth Church, were shown a Parish Offer 2022 Responses PowerPoint and added Malcolm Smith and Alison Otto as signatories to the accounts. Can I express my thanks to Clare Knill-Jones in her role as Lay-Chair, to Alison Otto for her work as secretary and to Rev. Ruth Crossley as a 'partner in crime' as we oversee our respective deaneries.

Fr. Jack Knill-Jones, Assistant Rural Dean of Barrow, March 2022

The Officers of the Barrow Deanery Synod are:

Clare Knill-Jones – Lay Chair

Alison Otto – Secretary

Treasurer - vacant

Fr. Jack Knill-Jones – Assistant Rural Dean

Fr. Jack Knill-Jones, Assistant Rural Dean of Barrow